

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A stereo adapter which is mounted in front of an imaging optical system of a camera to photograph a parallax image, comprising:

5 an optical system which has two light-receiving modules provided so as to be spaced apart from each other by a predetermined distance to receive light from a same object and which directs the received light from each of the two light-receiving modules to the imaging
10 optical system of the camera; and

a light-emitting module which is provided at a predetermined position associated with said optical system and can emit light to illuminate the object.

2. A stereo adapter according to claim 1,
15 wherein said light-emitting module is disposed at an intermediate position between said two light-receiving modules.

3. A stereo adapter according to claim 1, wherein said light-emitting module is disposed at such
20 a position that the light from said light-emitting module superposes an optical path from one of the two light-receiving modules to said object.

4. A stereo adapter which is mounted in front of an imaging optical system of a camera to photograph
25 a parallax image, comprising:

an optical system which has two light-receiving modules provided so as to be spaced apart from each

other by a predetermined distance to receive light from a same object and which directs the received light from each of the two light-receiving modules to the imaging optical system of the camera; and

5 a pattern projection module which is provided at a predetermined position associated with said optical system and projects a predetermined pattern onto the object.

10 5. A stereo adapter according to claim 4, wherein said pattern projection module is disposed at an intermediate position between said two light-receiving modules.

15 6. A stereo adapter according to claim 4, wherein said pattern projection module is disposed at such a position that the light from the pattern projection module for pattern projection superposes an optical path from one of said two light-receiving modules to said object.

20 7. A stereo adapter which is mounted in front of an imaging optical system of a camera to photograph a parallax image, comprising:

25 an optical system which has two light-receiving modules provided so as to be spaced apart from each other by a predetermined distance to receive light from a same object and which directs the received light from each of the two light-receiving modules to the imaging optical system of the camera;

a light-emitting module which is provided at a predetermined position associated with said optical system and can emit light to illuminate said object;

5 a pattern projection module which is provided at a predetermined position associated with said optical system and projects a predetermined pattern onto the object;

an input module which inputs a photographing timing signal from said camera; and

10 a processing circuit which, in accordance with the input of said photographing timing signal, alternatively performs emission by said light-emitting module and pattern projection by said pattern projection module.

15 8. A stereo adapter according to claim 7 further comprising a position changing mechanism which can support said light-emitting module and said pattern projection module in order for their order or positions to be varied in a direction orthogonal to a base line.

20 9. A pattern projection adapter which is mounted to a front surface of a light-emitting device used in relation to a camera to project a predetermined pattern onto an object, comprising:

25 a pattern filter which is placed so as to be adjacent to a light-emitting surface of said light-emitting device in a state of being mounted to said light-emitting device, and which has a predetermined

pattern at an area through which light from said light-emitting device transmits;

a projection optical system which receives the light transmitted through said pattern filter and projects said pattern; and

a mounting member which detachably mounts said adapter to said light-emitting device of the camera.

10. A pattern projection adapter according to claim 9, further comprising a light beam dividing module which divides the light transmitted through said pattern filter into two light beams, and the divided light beams are projected onto the same object from different positions, respectively.

11. An adapter for light-emitting module which is mounted to a front surface of a light-emitting module of a camera, comprising:

a light beam dividing module which divides the light beam from said light-emitting module into two light beams; and

a deflecting module which deflects each of the light beams from said light beam dividing module such that its proceeding direction direct to the same object.